

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-4. (cancelled).

5. (previously presented) The drive unit of claim 9, wherein the first axle comprises first and second axially aligned half-shafts.

6. (previously presented) The drive unit of claim 5, wherein the center differential comprises first and second planetary gear trains, the first planetary gear train comprising a planet carrier rigidly connected to the cage and provided with planet gears, a sun gear connected to the first half-shaft and an internal gear freely rotatable in the cage, the second planetary gear train comprising an internal gear rigidly connected to the internal gear of the first planetary gear train, a sun gear connected to the second half-shaft and a planet carrier constituting the second output member and comprising at least one pair of meshing planet gears.

7. (previously presented) The drive unit of claim 9, further comprising an intermediate shaft rotatably journaled in the housing and connected with a spur gear meshing with the output gear and a bevel gear adapted for meshing with a bevel gear connected to a shaft for driving the second axle.

8. (previously presented) The drive unit of claim 9, wherein the output gear is a bevel gear adapted to mesh with a bevel gear connected to a shaft for driving the second axle.

9. (currently amended) A transverse-mounted drive unit for distributing the output of an automotive transmission to first and second axles of a vehicle, comprising:

a housing comprising first and second axially spaced bearings;

a center differential comprising a cage coaxially mounted on the first axle and provided with at least one output member for driving the first axle and a second output member for driving the second axle;

an input gear coaxially coupled to the cage and adapted to be driven by an output gear of the transmission;

first and second bearing ~~members~~ sleeves extending axially in opposite directions from the cage, the first bearing member being journalled for rotation in the first bearing;

an axial extension ~~connected to~~ protruding from the second output member ~~and protruding from the~~ beyond second bearing member; and

an output gear coupled to the axial extension for meshing with a drive gear connected to the second axle, the output gear being journalled in the second bearing and provided with an axial recess ~~forming radially displaced internal and external bearing surfaces disposed substantially in the same radial plane as the second bearing member~~ receiving a third bearing in which the second bearing sleeve is journalled.

10. (currently amended) The drive unit of claim 9, ~~further comprising tapered roller bearings seated on the first and~~

~~second bearing members and on the external bearing surface~~ the second and third bearings are tapered roller bearings.

11. (currently amended) The drive unit of claim 10, wherein the second and third roller bearings are disposed in such ~~the apex of their pressure cones coincides with the axis of the output gear~~ a way that the apexes of their pressure cones on the axis coincide.

12. (canceled).